

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 COME-00

EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /102 W

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R 271957Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3561

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLES

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTION TO ALGERIAN SUSPENSION OF EMIGRATION

REF: PARIS 24848

1. SUMMARY: WITH LARGE SEGMENT OF FRENCH OPINION SYMPATHETIC TO IMMIGRANT LABOR, GOF, IN WAKE OF ALGERIAN SUSPENSION OF EMIGRATION TO FRANCE, IS MOVING ON TWO FRONTS: STRICTER CONTROL OF IMMIGRATION, AND GREATER EFFORT TO IMPROVE LOT OF IMMIGRANT WORKER. GOF MOST EMPHATIC, HOWEVER, IN REJECTING CHARGE OF RACIST-WAVE IN FRANCE.  
END SUMMARY.

2. ALGERIAN SUSPENSION OF EMIGRATION TO FRANCE IS VIEWED SYMPATHETICALLY BY LARGE SEGMENT OF FRENCH OPINION PRE-SENSITIZED BY LIBERAL PRESS, TRADE UNION, AND OPPOSITION PARTY FOCUS ON  
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INEQUITABLE TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANT LABOR. MOST OUTSPOKEN

HAVE BEEN TRADE UNIONS, CGT, CFDT, FEN, TOGETHER WITH OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, AND VARIOUS IMMIGRANT CIVIC AND FRATERNAL GROUPS, STAGED NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST RACISM ON SEPTEMBER 25. WIDELY OBSERVED THROUGHOUT FRANCE, THE DAY INCLUDED PUBLIC MEETINGS, MARCHES, AND TEMPORARY WORKSTOPPAGES.

3. GOF POLICY SEEKS TO EFFECT STRICTER CONTROL OF IMMIGRATION, WHILE MAKING ORDERLY PROGRESS TOWARDS MORE EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR ALGERIAN AND OTHER IMMIGRANT WORKERS. BUT GOF MOST ENERGETIC IN REJECTION OF CHARGE OF RACIST WAVE IN FRANCE. MINISTER OF INTERIOR ON SETEMBER 25 RELEASED DETAILED STATISTICS SHOWING NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE LEVEL OR PATTERN OF RACIAL MURDER OVER PAST YEAR. ON SEPTEMBER 26 A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REBUTTED CHARGE OF RACIST SENTIMENT IN FRANCE, POINTING TO MEASURES TAKEN BY GOF TO DEAL WITH ABUSE OF IMMIGRANT LABOR (A-922).

4. ADDITIONAL MEASURES IN FAVOR OF IMMIGRANT LABOR WERE ANNOUNCED AT A MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON SEPTEMBER 26. DRAFT LEGISLATION APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL WOULD REMOVE REQUIREMENT THAT WORKER BE FRENCH (OR NATIONAL OF COUNTRY HAVING RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT WITH FRANCE) IN ORDER TO SERVE AS TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVE. PROPOSED LAW WOULD ESTABLISH TWO-YEAR RESIDENCE IN FRANCE AS SUFFICIENT TO QUALIFY ALIEN WORKER TO SERVE IN THIS CAPACITY. PROPOSAL WOULD ALSO REMOVE FORMAL REQUIREMENT THAT WORKER BE ABLE TO READ AND WRITE FRENCH IN ORDER TO SERVE AS WORKER REPRESENTATIVE (DELEGUE DU PERSONNEL), OR AS DELEGATE TO PLANT COMMITTEE. THIS RESTRICTION WOULD BE REPLACED BY LESS STRINGENT REQUIREMENT THAT WORKER "BE ABLE TO EXPRESS HIMSELF IN FRENCH". THESE, HOWEVER, ARE MEASURES WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME. POSSIBLE A MORE DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THE ALGERIAN ACTION WAS ONE-MONTH EXTENSION (TO OCTOBER 31) OF DEADLINE FOR ILLEGALLY RESIDENT ALIENS TO SEEK ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON ALGERIAN INITIATIVE (SEPTTEL) SEEMS TO FALL SHORT OF THE KIND OF STATEMENT HOPED FOR IN ALGIERS. ALGERIAN MINISTER OF LABOR'S THREAT TO REPATRIATE NATIONALS PRESENTLY IN FRANCE UNCONVINCING, HOWEVER, IN PERSPECTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF EMPLOYMENT BONUS AND \$29.3 MILLION TRANSFERRED TO ALGERIA BY IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN 1972.

IRWIN

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## Message Attributes

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